

VZCZCXRO4652
PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHGI RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEH KI #1928 3611419
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 271419Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5350
INFO RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

UNCLAS KINSHASA 001928

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [CG](#) [ELECTIONS](#)
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE: DRC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DEBATES NEW LEADERSHIP

REF: KINSHASA 1895

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The DRC's new National Assembly will elect its new leadership ("Permanent Bureau") by December 28. Vital Kamerhe is expected to be elected the assembly's president. Election of the new parliamentary leadership should be closely followed by the announcement of the prime minister and the subsequent naming of a new cabinet. End summary.

¶2. (U) The DRC's National Assembly continues its deliberations regarding key commissions (reftel), and is also expected to elect its new leaders by December 28. A total of 32 candidates -- representing President Kabila's majority Alliance for the Presidential Majority (AMP), Jean-Pierre Bemba's Union for the Nation (UfN) coalition, and the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) -- have been registered for the seven senior leadership positions.

¶3. (U) The two AMP candidates for the position of the assembly's president are Vital Kamerhe, Secretary General of the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD) and Gilbert Tshiongo Tshibikuubula wa Ntumba, former governor of Western Kasai province. Vital Kamerhe, elected as a deputy to the National Assembly from Bukavu, claims to have Kabila's support and is already being dubbed "the virtual president" of the assembly in the local press.

¶4. (SBU) The next steps after election of the National Assembly leadership will be announcement of the prime minister and then the cabinet. While it is still possible that the prime minister could be named before the New Year, internal wrangling in the AMP coalition over key cabinet positions could delay an announcement.
DOUGHERTY